

Just What *Exactly* is Work-Based Learning?

Work-based learning links secondary and post-secondary education, business and industry, labor and government to provide high school students with a wide range of career opportunities and experiences, leading to a smooth transition from school to work. Work-based learning students come to realize the connection between school and living productive lives. Competency-based work-based learning experiences include paid and non-paid internships, occupational/technical labs, and related high school coursework. Many work-based learning programs also include additional career exploration activities like job shadowing, speakers, field trips and workshops. Benefits to work-based learning are numerous (*see box below*). Both educators and business sponsors provide students with the employability and career-related skills they need to be productive members of the workforce. Thus, work-based learning programs serve as a vital link between education and careers.

P.E.R.F.E.C.T., Tazewell County/Area Education For Employment, the Central Illinois Vocational Education Cooperative, and Illinois Central College have partnered to provide Central Illinois 11th and 12th grade high school students with region-wide work-based learning programs. Visit the high school guidance office for more information.

How Do Students Benefit From WBL?

- ✓ Exposure to variety of careers
- ✓ Hands-on, competency-based training
- ✓ Related high school coursework
- ✓ High school credit
- ✓ Advanced college/apprenticeship placement
- ✓ Dual credit
- ✓ Scholarships
- ✓ Opportunities for quality jobs
- ✓ Potential contacts for employment and post-secondary education
- ✓ Connection or “link” between school and work
- ✓ Self-confidence from success at school and work

How Do Employers Benefit From WBL?

- ✓ Provide students with a better understanding of a career field
- ✓ Influence student development to meet industry requirements
- ✓ Have expanded pool of qualified applicants
- ✓ Evaluate potential employees
- ✓ Feel pride and importance in collaborating with education

How Do Educators Benefit From WBL?

- ✓ Increased college/apprenticeship placement and employment rates of graduates
- ✓ Opportunities for professional staff development
- ✓ Increased enrollment in career and technical courses
- ✓ Instruction integrated with actual work and life experience
- ✓ Improved attendance, reduced drop-out rate

How Does The Community Benefit From WBL?

- ✓ Development of skilled workforce
- ✓ Enhanced employability of youth
- ✓ Decreased stress on families and community from unmotivated youth
- ✓ Economic growth and higher quality of life through expanded skilled workforce and taxpayer base
- ✓ Pride in schools and investing in youth

Common Application

Work-based learning program information and application forms can be found in each high school’s guidance department. Application information is also available online at:

www.perfectpeoria.com

**For more information or to
schedule a presentation for your
school, please contact:**

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